ALPHANUMERIC KEYBOARD

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A simple, low-cost alphanumeric keyboard contains, in the sequence from its lower side to its upper side, (a) a base, which is a non-conductive supporting surface (24) directed upwards, (b) a conductive strip (26), which is arranged on the supporting surface (24) and (c) a flexible layer (56), which is arranged above the conductive strip (26). The conductive strip (26) is preferably formed as a continuous strip of a material coated with an electrical resistor, having an essentially uniform, constant resistance per unit length. The flexible layer (56), which is arranged above the conductive strip (26), has a conductive surface which is directed downwards, in the direction of the conductive strip (26). The flexible layer (56) is attached in a manner such that it is normally not in contact with the conductive strip (26) but can manually be pressed down in the direction of the conductive strip (26), in order to make contact with the conductive strip (26) at individual points which are allocated to the respective alphanumeric characters (18). The conductive strip (26) and the flexible layer (56) thus form a voltage divider which generates a specific voltage as a function of the point of contact between the conductive strip (26) and the flexible layer (56). This voltage is applied to an A/D converter (34), which forms a digital signal.

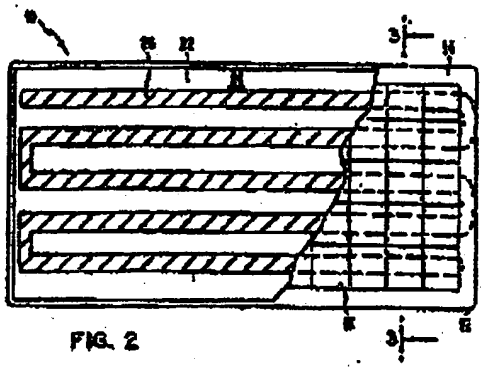

FIG. 2